

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)	
)	
of the Educator Certificate of)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Sherri L. Drew)	
)	
Certificate 150066)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 14, 2005. On November 21, 2005, the Department of Education (Department) sent Sherri L. Drew a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Drew received the notice, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. By letter received December 12, 2005, Ms. Drew informed the Department that she did not wish to request a hearing. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Drew's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Drew holds a valid South Carolina educator's certificate and has over sixteen years of experience. She was under contract for the 2005-2006 school year with Sumter County School District Two and was assigned as a teacher at Crestwood High School. On October 3, 2005, Ms. Drew notified her Principal in writing that she was resigning her position, effective October 14, 2005. On October 4, 2005, the District notified Ms. Drew that she would not be released from her contract until a suitable replacement was found. Ms. Drew met with Deputy Superintendent James Wilson on October 11, 2005, and he explained the consequences for failing to comply with the provisions of her employment contract. Ms. Drew stated that her last day with the District would be October 31,

2005. On October 29, 2005, the Principal notified the District office that Ms. Drew had failed to show up for work. Mr. Wilson then notified Ms. Drew on November 8, 2005, that the District Board of Trustees would vote to request the suspension of her certificate as a result of her breach of contract. The Board of Trustees subsequently took this action at its meeting on December 6, 2005.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Drew's certificate 150066 for a period of one year, from December 14, 2005, through December 13, 2006. Should Ms. Drew wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Educator Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 14, 2005